



Southeast Endurance Riders Association

Jan/Feb 2015

Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE-

- President's Letter
- Editor's Letter
- SERA Convention News
- SERA Year End Awards
- Sudi's Page
- Board Meeting Minutes
- FITS
- GPS
- **Deadline for the next newsletter is April 10, 2015. Please be a contributor!**

This message comes to you courtesy of our new newsletter editor, Nancy Sluys! Thank you, Nancy, for stepping up to take this on. And I also want to say a big thank you to Jody for serving as editor for as long as she did! And our newest board member has given us a glimpse into the recent meeting. We are already well into a new ride year and there have already been a number of SERA rides that have taken place. It looks like we will have another good year. The AHA Distance Nationals will be in the SE region this year at the Big South Fork Ride and the AERC National Championship will be held at the Old Dominion ride site and will be an SERA ride as well. We already have 20 rides on the schedule for this year even though there have been some changes in the schedule. The Red Barn Run has been cancelled and Leatherwood has moved to that date. Also Tamra has announced that she will not put on the Alabama Yellowhammer ride and the Skymont ride is moving to that date. I am also taking on a ride managers committee. If you are a ride manager please shoot me an e-mail so we can, as a group, discuss some of the issues facing ride managers. You can get me at tne1020668@aol.com. I hope you all will be able to get to a lot of the rides coming up, as either a rider or a volunteer. Remember, this is a sport that doesn't happen without a lot of help. So give back so that we all can play!! See you down the trail! Ike



Please Join SERA!!!

<http://www.seraonline.org>



Editors Corner—

Photo by Becky Pearman



Hi Folks, first and foremost I want to give a big thanks Jody Buttram for putting out a great newsletter for the past few years, that will be a hard act to follow! That being said I would like to introduce myself as your new newsletter editor. I am Nancy Sluys (rhymes with Guys!) and have been an AERC member for around 15 years and an SERA member for the last few years as well. I have more than 25 years of experience in distance riding as I came into endurance after having logged over 5000 miles in NATRC competitive trail riding so I have lots of knowledge and experience to share. I was also the editor for the NATRC Region 5 newsletter for 8 years so I hope that experience will serve you well too.

I am excited to be a part of SERA as I am so impressed by the mission of the organization to promote education and safety in endurance riding. I hope through this newsletter I can forward that mission. I will share my experiences and hope others will do the same. I may dig into the past and reprint some old articles that I wrote if I feel they would be helpful to endurance riders. This is YOUR newsletter so please be a contributor, be it a helpful tip, ride story, column, drawing, picture or advertisement. Please send your submissions to me at minglewood@surry.net and I will welcome them! I am very excited for the competition year to come as I have two horses that will be competing at the 100 mile level and one (bred by our SERA president) that will be entering the ranks in the Limited Distance division. I have no prejudice for or against any distance in AERC. They all have their place and I ride in all divisions. With this newsletter I hope to foster a feeling of unity in the Southeast Region as we all strive to reach our goals, whatever they may be. I hope my tips and insight as well as those of others, old timer or green bean, will help you in your journey!

Happy Trails, Nancy Sluys– SERA Newsletter Editor

SERA CONVENTION NEWS- by Sudi Lenhart

Hey yall~

Sudi Lenhart here-- the newest SERA regional representative from TN with news from the 2015 SERA convention held at Amicalola Falls State Park, Jan.16-17, otherwise known as "AERC National Convention ain't got nothing on SERA!"

Here's a snapshot of all that happened at the convention for those of you who missed it. This year the convention was expanded to two days with educational seminars both days and the annual meetings Saturday morning. We were lucky to have an amazing roster of experienced folks to speak to our topics.

Dr. Susan Garlinghouse came from the west region to speak about Nutrition and Body Scoring. We traded teaching her what it means in the south to say " Bless your heart" for all that she had to offer us.

Continued on page 3.....

SERA CONVENTION NEWS CONTINUED...

Highlights from Dr. Garlinghouse and some take home tidbits include:

- Nutrition– how feeding concentrates first thing before a ride can set up insulin spikes and deter your horse from utilizing their best fat stores.
- pre-ride nutrition management tools and tips for best utilization of nutrients during the whole ride.
- Body Scoring–how to rate a horse's body condition– what parts of the body to assess and how. Practical application–we practiced scoring with her feedback!
- Biomechanics–How to find your horse's "sweet spot" in each gait using the horse's energy most efficiently and with the least amount of stress on joints.
- Another take away– Dr. Garlinghouse has been making YouTube videos addressing a variety of topics for endurance riders from newbies to experienced.

Tim Worden spoke on the art of farriery for the endurance horse.

- We learned a thorough history of how shoeing came to be– thank goodness we don't have to use those rope thingys anymore!
- We examined the gamut of hoof protection for the endurance horse from steel shoes to aluminum shoes to the new plastic shoes to boot options for barefoot horses and glue ons. Tim did a great job giving unbiased pros and cons for each option and even used his own horses to illustrate who was a candidate for which option and why.

Ruth Anne Everett spoke on Tips and Tales of 100 Mile adventures.

- She kept us laughing with her stories of her adventures from being a non-rider at age 40 to learning enough to be the 2013 National 100 mile champion. Concepts like "Let the ride come to you" and "Shut up and ride" will forever be etched in our toolbox. We can all take home that anything is possible if we want it and are determined. Sound like endurance?

Awards: After a scrumptious banquet dinner Saturday night, awards were presented from GERA and SERA. Wow. Some fabulous awards and man do we have some talented horses and riders in the southeast!

Each evening there was spectacular music– Friday night Nancy And Bill Sluys and friends entertained with lovely old time mountain music, and then the raucous Men of Soul threw down Saturday night. Both nights brought out dancers showing us that endurance riders know how to shake a leg!

Super thanks to the village that made this event happen–Laurie Underwood, Ike Nelson, Alison Bailey, Nina Barnett, Patty Gale, Debbie Guy, Joe Schoech and many others.

As 2015 gets underway, we hope that everyone has a fabulous ride season planned and that your horses are happy and healthy!

Please don't forget to renew your SERA membership for 2015– this is our regional club and we have so much to offer each other!

SERA AWARDS RECIPIENTS - 2014 RIDE SEASON

100 Mile Club

- Nicki Meuten on Cashin In (400 miles)
- Vic Stine on Fine Tune (300 miles)
- Joni Buttram on Miss Fancy Pants3 (300 miles)
- Steve Rojek on Trident

Photo by Becky Pearman



Nicki Meuten & Cashin' In



Gold Level 100 Mile Achievement Winners

- Jumpin' Jax (owned by Mike and Ruth Anne Everett)

Best Condition - Open Division

- Emmanuel Battyr (owned and ridden by Terry Wyatt)

Consistent Condition - Open Division -

SPONSORED BY RUNNING BEAR – TEDDY LANCASTER

- Emmanuel Battyr (owned and ridden by Terry Wyatt)



Ruth Anne Everett

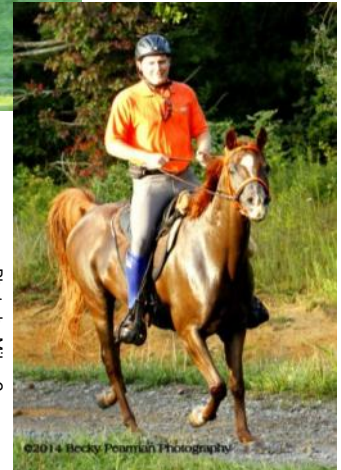


Photo by Becky Pearman

Terry Wyatt & Emmanuel Battyr

Limited Distance Best Condition --

SPONSORED BY LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES RIDE

- MNX Shaidinn Tyib (owned and ridden by Susan Kain)



Photo by Miles Cary

Susan Kain

Open Mileage Champion

- Cashin In (ridden by Nicki Meuten)

Reserve Open Mileage Champion

- Fine Tune (ridden by Vic Stine)

Limited Distance Mileage Champion –

SPONSORED BY JANA SMITH IN MEMORY OF

STEFFANIE WADDINGTON

- MA Jaxxon (ridden by Jane Larrimore)



Photo by Becky Pearman

Jane Larrimore & MA Jaxxon



Photo by Nancy Sluys

Vic Stine & Fine Tune

Top Ten Open Division

1. Cheryl Van Deusen
2. Nicki Meuten
3. Joni Buttram
4. Terry Wyatt
5. Tom Hagis
6. Sudi Lenhart
7. Vickie Stine
8. Kyle Gibbon
9. Don Meuten
10. Steve Rojek



Sudi Lenhart

Photo by Miles Cary



Melissa Hamilton

Photo by Miles Cary

Top Five Limited Distance

1. Melissa A. Hamilton
2. Jane Larrimore
3. Lindsay Campbell
4. Amy Dedafoe
5. Kathy Neunzig



Tom Hagis

Photo by Nancy Sluys

Freshman Horse of the Year – SPONSORED BY RED BARN RUN (STEVE AND CHERYL PERRY)

MA Jaxxon (owned and ridden by Jane Larimore)

Freshman Rider of the Year – SPONSORED BY FOSTER OLSON AND LELA NIELSEN

Aubrey Clendenin Williams

Junior Awards:

Junior Grand Champion –

SPONSORED BY CHRISTO AND LORI DINKLEMANN:

Caroline Guy



Caroline Guy

Photo by Miles Cary

10 Consecutive Finishes

- LR Georgie Girl (owned by Clare Summers)
- Rockette Survivor (owned by Foster Olson)
- Fine Tune (owned by Vickie Stine)
- Laissez Fare (owned by Vance Stine)
- Morado Cielo (owned by Amy Dedafoe)
- WF Felina (owned by Jenny Fox)
- WF Rodan Al Nisr (owned and ridden by Patty Gale)
- Cherwona (owned and ridden by Nelia Rueter)
- MA Jaxxon (owned and ridden by Jane Larrimore)
- SMS Apache Shadodanz (owned and ridden by Alice Farrar)
- Mystiq Temptation (ridden by Robin Owens)
- Chance of Freedom (owned by Lily Turaski)
- PW September Hero +/- (owned by Patsy Gowen)



Angie McGhee 8000 Miles



Nelia Rueter 6000 miles

Mileage Milestones

Robin Burris	5,000
Mary Farris	5,000
Lani Newcomb	5,000
Vic Stine	6,000
Nelia Rueter	6,000
Skip Kemerer	6,000
Gina Hagis	6,000
Farzad Faryadi	7,000
Joni Buttram	7,000
Ruth Anne Everett	7,000
Clare Summers	8,000
Angie McGhee	8,000
Trish Harrop	10,000
Claire Godwin	13,000
Claude Brewer	13,000
Cheryl Van Deusen	15,000
Valerie Kanavy	20,000
Steve Rojek	24,000

350 Miles in a Season

- Cheryl Van Deusen and Snake Eyes Leroy
- Nelia Rueter and Cherwona
- Margaret Clare Summers and LR Georgie Girl
- Vance Stine and Laissez Fare
- Denise Secino and Windstalker
- Jenny Fox and WF Felina
- Terry Wyatt and Emmanuel Battyr
- Kathy Broaddus and Fougueux
- Dana Reeder and LB Magnolia
- Megan Savory-Davis and FYF Shabaani
- Tom Hagis and Ali Mostafa
- Foster Olson and Rockette Survivor
- Joni Buttram and Miss Fancy Pants3
- Sudi Lenhart and A Long Way to El Paso
- Cheryl Van Deusen and Hoover the Mover
- Don Meuten and FYF Dutch
- Nancy Sluys and R-Kons Able
- Claude Brewer and Hal Bents Sky Bar
- Gayle King and Coup
- Kyle Gibbon and LJ Bey Beaujolais20

Photos by Miles Cary

Lawton Johnson Award Winners

Stagg and Cheryl Newman



More scenes from the convention

Photos by Miles Cary



Clare Summers 8000 miles



Farzad Faryadi 7000 miles



Trish Harrop 10,000 miles



Photo by Nancy Sluys

SUDI'S PAGE— A periodic interview with members new and old

Newcomer

/n y oo, kəməər

a person or thing that has recently arrived in a place or joined a group.

synonyms: (new) arrival, immigrant, settler

a novice in a particular activity or situation.

synonyms: beginner, novice, learner

The first in a series....meet David Dunlap from Gainesville, GA. He joined AERC in 2014, SERA in 2015, entered and completed six LD rides (160 miles) with 5 top tens and 1 BC.

So here we go—

1. What made you know you wanted to try endurance?

I had a group of guys that loved to trail ride in the Appalachian Mountains. We rode in the Cohutta Wilderness, Chattahoochee National Forest, the Nantahala National Forest and the Great Smoky Mountains. I was always trying to find a better saddle, better equipment, the perfect horse and so it was a natural progression that led me to endurance riding. I read about the great Tevis Cup Ride and learned about the American Endurance Ride Conference. I found out there was going to be a ride in my area, the GERA Fundraiser in Dawson Forest. So on a beautiful Saturday morning in June I jumped in my truck and headed over to Dawson Forest . I took my folding chair and plopped down next to the vet station. I was having a great time just taking in all the beautiful horses. One of the vets came over and introduced himself, it was Dr. Otis Schmidt. I think Otis knew right off that I was interested in the sport so for the next couple of hours I became Otis's student . When I went home that afternoon I knew I had to try it.

2. What was the hardest thing for you to get going right in the first few rides?

When riding on logging roads, in an effort to make up time, I missed several trail markers. I wish these particular turns could be marked with chalk as suggested in an article I read in Endurance News.

3. What did someone do that was just so very helpful?

I entered this sport alone. The first ride I just wanted a completion, "to finish is to win", that was my goal ! So in June of 2014 Rev and I finished our first ride, the GERA at Dawson Forest. We did it! The pressure was off ! But.....but then I had to do another one! I signed up for the Biltmore Challenge II. The Biltmore would be my first race out of town. I did all the preparation and headed to Asheville. I pulled in and started setting up camp. A guy came over and wanted to borrow a hammer, it was Dan Hallman. Dan is a southern boy from Aiken South Carolina and the friendliest rider you will ever meet. Dan said he liked to ride the first mile of both loops the day before the race and would I like to join him. I took him up on it and that afternoon we familiarize ourselves with the trail. Dan said " you got a fast horse why don't you ride with me tomorrow ". I was very reluctant, after all I just wanted to finish ! Dan went on to explain all aspects of the race and convinced me that I was in good hands. So the next day I did everything that Dan told me to do and finished 7th in a field of 52.

4. Did anyone do something that turned you off?

I was doing well in the LD's with seven under my belt and six finishes in the the top ten. One of my fellow riders told me that I should not be racing my four year old horse ! He was too young he said. I was taken back because he knew nothing of my horse's history and his conditioning program. It still bothered me when I returned home from the race so I turned to my friend and vet Dr. Ken Marcella. He reassured me that my horse was developing well and capable of the rides I was doing.

5. Where did you get your criteria for riding endurance that you decided to utilize?

I read books, searched the web and talked to seasoned riders. I also had the luxury of meeting with Dr. Ken Marcella at a friend's barn where I knew he would be once a week !

6. What was your biggest surprise?

Probably my biggest surprise is that I'm involved in a sport which has me wearing tights !

7. Is there anything that would help you along the way that isn't offered by the organization?

Maybe a mentoring program.

8. Is there anything in the organization that turns you off?

Not at this point

9. What are your next goals or aspirations?

The Mongol Derby !

No, seriously, Rev turns 5 next month so I would like to do my first 50 this year.

10. What has your horse taught you?

When you purchase a horse for endurance you have certain expectations based on perceived strengths and weaknesses. Then when you start conditioning those expectations are either confirmed or unfulfilled. After deciding to try my hand at endurance riding I started looking for a horse. I found Rev on line at Horse-clicks. He was a three year old that had been raised by a petite lady who wanted a small arab. Rev grew to be 16 hands so she decided to sell him ! He has proven to be a good choice !



Photo by Nancy Sluys

Southeast Endurance Riders Association, Inc.
 Members' Meeting Minutes
 Amicalola Falls State Park, Dawsonville, Georgia
 January 17, 2015

Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President, Ike Nelson, at 9:06 a.m.

State of the Organization – Ike Nelson

2014 was a good ride year for SERA

There were 33 SERA sanctioned rides in 2014, with 10 of those rides being held in Florida.

Stagg Newman - how many overall ride entries did SERA have for 2014?

Ike Nelson – we are not sure but we do know that the number of ride entries are down.

The Yellow Hammer ride will no longer be held – the Skymont ride has taken this ride date.

Tamra Schoech – she can help with some of the ride details (permitting, etc.) if someone would like to take over management of the Yellow Hammer ride.

The Red Barn Run ride will no longer be held – the Leatherwood ride has taken this ride date.

Jim Rogan, ride manager for the Kentucky Diehards ride, is looking for a new ride date.

We have not received ride sanctioning fees from four ride managers for the 2014 season.

AERC sent a letter to SERA regarding the Atlanta convention thanking us for our help and support of this event, apologizing for the mistakes made during the Regional Awards presentation, and promising to correct those mistakes.

The State of Alabama – Recreational Trails Program (RTP) sent Ike a letter regarding an award of trails grant funds to SERA for certain construction projects to be undertaken at the Talladega trails system. The funds were returned to RTP because Tamra Schoech purchased road crossing materials for the ride.

Old Business

Alison Bailey is ill today but prepared financials for distribution to the members.

The software which ran our old blood analyzer expired. Duane Barnett found and procured a new-to-SERA unit which is nicer and easier to use than our old unit. GERA contributed \$2,000 towards the cost of the new unit. The total cost of the machine plus 24 rotors was approximately \$2,800.

Joe Schoech:

The new blood analyzer is smaller than the old one.

It will require transportation to rides which Joe does not attend.

The new analyzer uses rotors which allow analysis of blood gasses, potassium and calcium with one rotor.

Joe displayed a sample printout of the results using our new projector.

Ike Nelson – Charges for use:

Rotors cannot be reused and require refrigeration.

We need to price the use of the blood analyzer in order to maintain a fund with which to purchase more rotors.

A single analysis will cost \$40.00

Multiple analyses will cost \$35.00 per analysis

Analyses used for treatment will cost \$30.00 per analysis

One of the main reasons we offer this service is to aid treatment vets.

If you choose to have your horse's blood analyzed at various points in the ride, the information will not be shared with you until you are no longer in the ride.

We did not do a good job of advertising the blood analyzer and were in a deficit. We will do a better job. Ike encourages all members to use the blood analyzer and to encourage others to use it.

Sudi Lenhart:

If a rider wanted multiple draws for their use, when are the recommended times to draw?

Ike Nelson – at a minimum blood should be drawn before and after the ride. If you are riding a 100, he recommends before, after and a couple of times during the ride.

Remember, the results will not be shared with you while you are still entered in the ride.

Trish Harrop – if she was only going to have blood drawn once, she would spend her money when her horse was not happy coming in off trail.

Stagg Newman – suggests we post the protocol on our website.

Katherine Capps – suggests that the protocol be included on ride applications.

Joe Schoech – will create a sheet to translate the printouts.

Sharon Wilson – what if the blood analysis shows a problem in the middle of a ride? Ike – this information may still not be shared while you are still in the ride.

Our projector failed and we purchased a nicer replacement unit with funds from the Education Fund.

Patty Gale:

Did not complete the application for our 501(c)(3) status as she had intended.

The application process has been streamlined.

There is a \$400 fee to process the application.

Solicits help from the members to get this application done.

Theresa Valliant volunteers to help.

Stagg Newman:

The Biltmore II educational clinic funded by SERA drew 20 – 40 attendees each day. Clinicians were Dr. Ann Stuart, Jeff Pauley, Dr. Meg Sleeper and Stagg Newman.

He would like to see a clinic held at another big ride.

New Business

Patty Gale reads a message to SERA from Ann Cofield.

Ike Nelson – SERA needs a benefit ride for 2015.

Patsy Gowen – Sandhills will donate one day of its two-day ride.

Eric Rueter:

The AHA Distance Nationals will be hosted by the Big South Fork ride in 2015.

There will be a 70-mile CTR on Thursday and Friday.

There will be an AERC LD and 50 on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

The AERC 50 on Saturday will also be the AHA Championship ride for that distance.

There will be an AERC LD, 50 and 100 on Sunday. The AERC 100 will also be the AHA Championship ride for that distance.

Volunteers needed:

Someone to handle parking

Food coordinator for four days

Pulse takers

Would like to have an SERA clinic at the ride.

The AHA has dropped the points system but prize money will be awarded.

The Big South Fork Ride will also host the First Annual East Coast Ride and Tie Championship

Ike Nelson - Eric Rueter is seeking sponsors for this ride.

Miles Cary made a motion that SERA sponsor the ride in the amount of \$100.00.

Susan Kain seconded the motion.

A vote of the members was taken and the motion passed.

Ike Nelson - SETC

JoAnn Mitchell is a Board member for the National Equestrian Trails Conference, formerly known as SETC.

This year's conference will be held in Wisconsin but a date has not been solidified.

Until a date has been set it is too soon to allocate funds or people to attend.

If NETC asks us to attend, we will take it up as a Board issue.

Lynn Kenelly

Lynn is now a board member for her local club of AHA's Region XII.

She has been asked to hold an endurance clinic at the Region XII Youth Jamboree at Fants Grove.

She may ask some of us to help her.

Ike Nelson - Newsletter

He has always enjoyed the newsletter.

Asks the membership if someone will take it over with Jody.

Ike Nelson - Insurance matters

We had a claim on our insurance policy in 2014

Laurie Underwood gave a brief presentation to the members discussing the differences between certificate holders and additional insureds.

Additional insureds will now cost the requesting ride manager \$25.00 per additional insured requested.

Ike Nelson - 2015 National Championship Ride

Will be held at the Old Dominion trails.

They are looking for volunteers.

Ike Nelson - Alabama Horse Fair

The Alabama Horse Council will be holding the Alabama Horse Fair will be held February 28 - March 1, 2015, in Montgomery, Alabama. SERA has sponsored a booth in the past. The booth costs \$200.00.

SERA Meeting Minutes Continued...

Nancy Sluys made a motion that SERA sponsor a booth at a cost of \$200.00 and send Ike Nelson as SERA's representative.

Trish Harrop seconded the motion.

A vote of the members was taken and the motion passed.

Ike Nelson - AERC Convention

SERA typically helps the SE Directors with their costs in attending the AERC Convention.

Since the AERC Convention was in Atlanta in 2014, SERA did not help the Directors with their costs.

Laurie Underwood made a motion that SERA give \$750 each to Susan Kasemeyer and Duane Barnett to help with their costs of attending the AERC Convention.

Jane Larrimore seconded the motion.

A vote of the members was taken and the motion passed.

Elections - State Representatives

The following members were elected as state representatives:

Georgia - Patty Gale

Mississippi - Jack Price

Alabama - Ike Nelson

Florida - Helen Koehler

South Carolina - Patsy Gowen

Tennessee - Sudi Lenhart

Virginia - Lynne Johnson

North Carolina - Ruth Anne Everett

Kentucky - Amy Whelan

Joe Schoech made a motion to accept the election results which was seconded and passed by a vote of the members present.

Joe Schoech - the organization needs and will benefit from new blood.

Members should consider serving, and stand up and talk about SERA at their state's rides.

Any organization becomes stagnant at times without new blood.

The worst thing that can happen is to have people serving who do not want to serve.

Elections - Officers

The following were elected as officers:

President:

Ike Nelson was nominated by Laurie Underwood; the nomination was seconded by Susan Kasemeyer, and passed by a vote of the members present.

Vice President:

Patty Gale was nominated by Susan Kasemeyer; the nomination was seconded by Lynn Kenelly, and passed by a vote of the members present.

Secretary:

Laurie Underwood was nominated by Nancy Gooch; the nomination was seconded by Susan Kain, and passed by a vote of the members present.

Treasurer:

Alison Bailey was nominated by Tamra Schoech; the nomination was seconded by Laurie Underwood, and passed by a vote of the members present.

Helmet Rule

Patsy Gowen would like to discuss a helmet rule, however as we were out of time to discuss this issue, a vote was held and passed that a rule requiring riders wear helmets at all SERA sanctioned rides would be placed on the agenda for the next members meeting to be held in 2016.

Stagg Newman - suggests that the issue be placed on the SERA website and Facebook for a poll of the members.

Cheryl Newman - suggests that the issue be discussed at rides, and attempt to get all voices heard.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:51 a.m. by President Ike Nelson.

Submitted by Laurie Underwood, Secretary

My Fun in the Sun by Nancy Sluys

Winter cabin fever took over and after the latest bout of below zero weather Bill and I made a mad dash to Florida with two horses and two dogs! We found a window between storms and hit the road headed for a visit with his sisters in Sebastian and later the Fun in the Sun endurance ride. On board were Zanie (FYF InZane+/-) who was going to do a 75, Snap (ABA Kamaals Regalo) who would get his feet wet in the sport with his first LD and Bill's KTM motorcycle to keep him happy. In a 24 hour period we went from 12 degrees to 82! While visiting in Sebastian I took the horses to a local trail system for a warm up (to say the least!). They were huffing and puffing in no time so I was glad that the temperatures dropped to the low 60s by the time we travelled three hours back north for the ride.

The night before Zanie's ride there was a terrible wind storm that rocked the trailer all night long and kept me awake. It knocked over most of the porta potties and turned some vender booths upside down! I felt pretty bad the next morning as the motion had caused me to become sick so I postponed my start until the following day, being a 3 day ride. I was thankful for the cool temps because I did not clip my horse. We started the ride after the front runners and hit a steady pace and efficiently covered the first two loops mostly by ourselves. Heading out for my third loop Zanie slowed way down, she realized it was a



Photo by Becky Pearman

longer distance ride and was taking her mid day break. Her last ride at Broxton that was a 50 she cantered the whole 3rd loop. I think she knows that when I glue on the Easyboots that she might be going a hundred!! I have learned to trust this, that she knows what she needs and just go with it. Her 10 mph trot became a pokey 6 mph trot for about 10 miles while I plugged into some music to pass the time. I was able to really enjoy the scenery and the partnership with my special horse. After a while we hooked up with a few other riders, Annie Whelan and her sponsor, Tracy from Canada, also Kathy Broaddus from Virginia. When we hit the far end of the loop and made "that" turn I felt her pick up and we came on in to camp for our last hold. Out on the final loop with the air cooling off she got her energy back and went right along. Still with the other riders, we finished just after dark. She looked great at the vet out and I was surprised to discover that we had finished 4th so I decided to come back for the BC judging. Later the next day at the awards I was floored when she actually won it!!! A furry mountain pony who just came out of winter wins Best Condition in an FEI 75 mile ride

in Florida!!!!!! I'm proud of my tough girl!!

On Saturday I saddled up Snap (who I've had since July) for his first LD. It was a challenge getting him out of camp as he was calling to Zanie and getting a bit light on the front end. By the time I was able to get him out of the gate most of the riders had left. Several gals, also on young horses, trotted by so I tagged along for a few miles until he settled. The sand on this loop, which we also had to repeat for our second loop, was quite deep so I backed off and got him alone because I didn't want to trot through the deep stuff. Snap went along nicely except for some spooks here and there. *Continued on the next page.....*



Continued from page 13.....There was a dead long leaf pine sapling that looked just like “Cousin It” that I could barely get him by but when I convinced him to go up and sniff it he realized it was no big deal! It was a comical moment!

Photo by Becky Pearman



After a while Aubrey Becker and her new horse caught up to me and we helped each other get our newbys down the trail. On the second loop the sand had gotten even deeper with all the horses that had gone through so we walkeda lot... until we crossed the road where the trail turned from deep sand to forest road and better footing. As I was riding I could tell I could tell right about where we hit 18 miles as Snap slowed down as if he was done for the day. 18 miles is as long as I had ridden him up until that point and I was about to reset his odometer! Once he realized that his work was not done he moved right out on the better footing. He even

went boldly through the long water crossings we had to go through and lead for most of the loop. As the day went on I could feel our relationship growing and him becoming more solid. We completed near our maximum time and he vetted out with all As with lots of energy to spare, in fact, he tried to race Bill to the end of the trotting lane and back! We had a good first ride! It was such a contrast to the day before when I was riding my aged campaigner who I've been competing for six years. It brings to mind how long it takes to really make an endurance horse. He performed well and has a lot of promise but he has a long way to go to reach the depth of strength and experience that Zanie has. Lots more long slow miles to come!

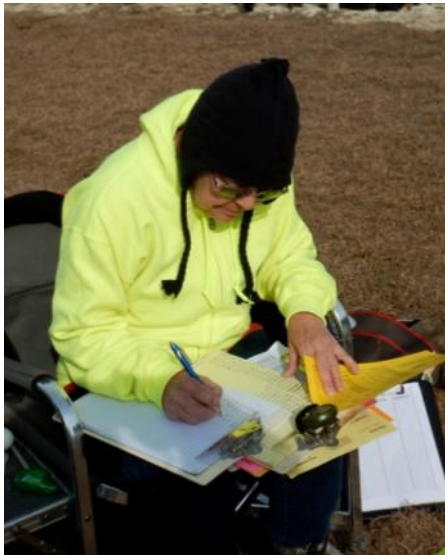


Zanie and my super crew Bill chillin' at the vet check!

More Scenes from Fun in the Sun Endurance Ride



Well, maybe not so much sun
but it sure was fun!!!



Photos by Nancy Sluys



Making GPS measurements accurate By Joe Schoech

Wow! So you want to be a ride manager and put on an endurance ride? I am not quite sure what this malady is called, but you might want to schedule an appointment with your doctor to get some drugs to cure your "What in the world was I thinking?" problem. In reality, the smiling faces on the riders and their healthy horses after the event will do just fine for most ride managers and thank goodness for those of us wishing to compete, huh?

Anyone who thinks putting on an endurance ride is easy really does need a dose of "reality" from those few brave souls who help keep this sport of endurance going - the ride managers. The list of "want-to's" and "have-to's" are practically endless when a ride manager sits down to plan the ride. I guess the difference between the lists from one ride manager to another is what makes this sport as much fun as it is - each ride has its own characteristics and flavors and can appeal to each of us in a different way.

One of the "have-to's" on my list is a safe, well-marked and accurately measured trail. This is much easier said than done. The hours it takes to choose and prepare the trail for an endurance ride can be extensive and exhausting. But what kind of ride will it be for the riders and their horses if they can't find their way on it or be assured that they rode the prescribed distance?

Marking trail is an art in itself and can vary by ride and/or region. Most of us would like to not have to learn a new marking "language" every time we go to a ride, but variations from ride to ride should be expected.

All riders should, however, be pretty certain that if they were entered in a 25-, 50- or 100-mile event, that they rode that distance to get their completion. I certainly don't want my horse carrying my butt any farther than he has to in order to get my t-shirt and his points. On the other hand, is it fair that at one ride a horse and rider team travels 50 miles to get their completion and at another ride, they only have to travel 90% of that distance to get credit for those 50 miles?

So how can ride managers be certain that their trails are the advertised (and sanctioned) distance? As you can guess, there are numerous ways to measure a trail. We can always fall back to the "absolutely" accurate measuring wheel, right? Who has the time and the energy to walk a trail with a wheel? Wouldn't it be a lot easier to ride the trail in or on some vehicle to get the proper measurement? Well, yes, but actually, most vehicles don't have accurate (within 5%) odometers anyway. Wheel spin on most vehicles can create inaccurate measurements.

A property owner once told me that he knew the distances of his trails were correct - after all, he drove them in his Suburban! After riding with him in his Suburban on the trails (with a death-grip on the "oh-crap handle") we found that there was a 5% difference between his measurement and mine. I measured the same trails with my two GPS devices while in his Suburban.

How can that be? We all know that GPS isn't accurate, don't we? They have to see all of those satellites to work properly, don't they? They just can't be accurate, especially in a Suburban or even under trees or even in mountainous terrain, right? Wrong!

GPS measurements can be correct and very accurate, if the measurements are conducted properly. Previously, there have been articles in Endurance News on how a GPS device can be used to measure trail accurately. The folks that wrote them are considered very knowledgeable and are experts. My approach measuring trails is based on some training, but mostly a lot of experience and practical applications. The recommended methods are tried and true and have been used to measure horse, bike and hiking trails in varied terrain throughout the country.

– First of all, just like in most things, you usually get what you pay for with GPS. The higher-end devices have better receive antennas and intuitive data processing and are getting even better with every new version.

– I recommend tracking by distance, rather than time- – the "cookies" will be delivered in a more linear fashion. Cookies are those spots that a marker is placed with an associated latitude/longitude.

– Make sure you mount the device so that it can "see" the sky and therefore the most satellites available. Every obstacle reduces the device's ability to see satellites.

– Carry extra batteries so that you don't lose power in the middle of the track.

– Create a map with your results! When GPS-ing trails, I use two GPS devices simultaneously (I prefer Garmin and Delorme). I like these two different manufacturers so that I can use their respective mapping programs when uploading the tracks from the devices. I can compare the tracks of the two devices to confirm the accuracy of tracks and create topographical maps from the data.

Both Garmin MapSource (and BaseCamp) and Delorme Topo have very manageable mapping programs. I "clean up" the erroneous or missing tracks to create a completely accurate map of the trails. Mileage from the tracks and trails will now be accurate as a result of this detailed review of your GPS data because the "cookies" from the device tracks have been laid onto a terrain map, which takes into account any elevation change that may have been inaccurately recorded by the GPS device. In my view, this is what makes GPS-ing a trail accurate and true.

In conclusion, one can measure trails in a number of different ways: drive them in your Suburban, walk them with your "wheel," believe the land manager's measurements, etc. While just reading the GPS device on your wrist or in your pouch can give you some idea of the correct measurement, you will not get the most accurate measurement unless you take the time to create a map from your GPS tracks.

An added benefit of creating the map is that you now actually have a detailed map of your trails that you can use for clearing, spotters, water locations, emergency services, etc. I have found that land managers also like to know where these trails are and will appreciate your effort in providing them the maps.

In the end, more accurate trail information can help make riders, land managers and ride managers happier and better informed.

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Photo by Becky Pearman

Until next time...Happy Trails!!!!

Send me your stuff!!!

Deadline for the next issue is April 10!

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